



DIOCESE OF  
BRIDGEPORT



# DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

May 26, 2026

CATHOLIC RECRUITER ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE SEARCH • MANAGEMENT CONSULTING



## BACKGROUND

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Serving the faithful of Fairfield County, Connecticut, the **Diocese of Bridgeport** was established in 1953 and today includes a vibrant Catholic community led by **Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**. Through parishes, schools, outreach ministries, and evangelization efforts, we work to proclaim the Gospel, serve those in need, and strengthen the Church's presence in everyday life.

"The One" is our diocese's bold commitment to renewing the Church by bringing every believer closer to Jesus Christ through transformative encounters and accompaniment. Rooted in truth, beauty, and goodness, we will offer a number of different opportunities for all the faithful to encounter the Lord's unconditional love, mercy and power.

As a diocese we are committed to evangelization, education, community outreach, and pastoral care, rooted in the sacraments and faithful to the teachings of the Church. Our ministries work to uphold the dignity of life, promote multicultural inclusion, and ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all.

The Diocese of Bridgeport is comprised of 74 parishes and educates nearly 10,000 students in 22 regional schools, one special needs school, 5 diocesan high schools, with approximately 11,000 students enrolled in our two Catholic higher education institutions (Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University).

**Position Title:** Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry

**Department:** Vicariate for Education and Formation

**Reports To:** Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation

**Location:** Catholic Center – Shelton, CT

## Overall Responsibility:

The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for visioning, articulating, and executing a creative ministry plan to foster young disciples in parishes, schools, and ecclesial movements. The coordinator articulates goal-oriented, measurable pathways for ministry with young people in middle and high school that are authentically relational by implementing a focused approach to the primary purpose of effective ministry: an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. This person will be successful if he or she can create a vibrant plan to implement a comprehensive ministry to, with, and for young people in our parishes, schools, and diocese.

This role prioritizes leadership formation, strategic coordination, and the cultivation of models that engage not only youth but also their families. Working collaboratively with diocesan offices, parish leadership, and Catholic schools, the Director serves as a resource, coach, and catalyst for renewal by ensuring that youth ministry contributes meaningfully to the broader mission of evangelization and missionary discipleship within the Diocese, especially as articulated by the Diocesan plan for pastoral renewal known as The One.

## Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

### Parish & Regional Support

- Assist parishes in designing, implementing, and sustaining effective relationships between young people and their parish communities
- Support the development of and promote regional models of youth ministry where collaboration between parishes strengthens participation and resource-sharing
- Provide consultation, assessment, and strategic guidance to pastors and parish leaders
- Support parish leaders, especially pastors and youth ministry leaders, as they seek to understand the needs of young people in their community
- Identify and disseminate recommended practices to parishes and schools across the Diocese

### Leadership Formation & Accompaniment

- In collaboration with the Institute for Catholic Formation, create and deliver ongoing formation for parish youth ministry leaders (staff and volunteers), including theological, pastoral, and practical competencies
- Establish clear frameworks and expectations for youth ministry leadership rooted in the mission of the Church
- Provide mentoring, coaching, and accompaniment for new and existing leaders

- Foster a culture of collaboration, accountability, and shared mission among parish leaders

### **Professional & Personal Development**

- Organize diocesan-wide opportunities, workshops, and retreats for youth ministry leaders
- Promote opportunities for certification, continuing education, and spiritual growth
- Support leaders in developing both ministerial skill and personal discipleship
- Collaborate with national and regional organizations to provide up-to-date formation opportunities for ministry leaders

### **Innovation & Engagement**

- Generate and pilot innovative approaches to youth ministry that respond to current cultural realities
- Expand youth ministry beyond event-based models toward sustained relational discipleship
- Develop strategies that intentionally engage parents and families as primary partners in the formation of young people
- Identify opportunities for digital, hybrid, and non-traditional forms of engagement

### **Post-Confirmation & Discipleship Focus**

- Lead diocesan efforts to reimagine ministry for youth in the post-Confirmation years
- Develop pathways that invite young people into ongoing participation in parish life, service, and vocational discernment
- Ensure that youth ministry is integrated into the broader evangelization strategy of the Diocese

### **Middle School Youth Ministry Expansion**

- Promote and support the development of intentional ministry for middle school-aged youth at parish, regional, and diocesan levels
- Equip parishes with age-appropriate models that build a foundation for high school engagement
- Ensure continuity between children's formation programs and high school youth ministry
- Foster relationships between parish leaders and parents

### **Collaboration with Catholic Schools**

- Work with diocesan Catholic schools to support and enhance youth ministry efforts within the school context
- Develop partnerships between parish youth ministry and school communities
- Identify opportunities for shared programming, retreats, and leadership development

### **Integration with Young Adult & Campus Ministry**

- Collaborate with diocesan leaders in young adult and campus ministry to ensure continuity of engagement beyond high school
- Develop transitional pathways for graduating seniors into young adult ministry
- Foster a unified vision of lifelong discipleship across ministry areas

### **Diocesan Collaboration & Strategic Alignment**

- Work closely with diocesan leadership to ensure youth ministry aligns with the overall pastoral vision and renewal efforts
- Participate in diocesan planning initiatives and provide input on matters related to youth and family engagement
- Contribute to communications, promotion, and visibility of youth ministry across the Diocese

### **Other Duties**

- Other duties as assigned by the Diocesan Bishop or his designee.

## **Qualifications & Requirements**

- Graduate Degree in Theology, Education, Religious Studies, or related field.
- Five plus years of project management experience managing projects and coordinating teams, preferably at the diocesan level.
- Actively growing in one's faith and able to be a witness of Christ through a life of authenticity and integrity as a Roman Catholic in good standing.
- Proven expertise on trends, methods, teachings, and research in youth, families, ministry, and education; interest in continually developing professional knowledge.
- A strong work ethic and desire to exceed client expectations.
- Practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- Solid problem-solving and time management skills.
- Significant experience working effectively with young people and young adults.
- An understanding of the human development of young people and how this intersects with their faith development.
- An understanding of the crucial role parents play in the faith development of youth.
- Enjoys being an active team member in a joyful work environment.
- Strong presentation skills. Prior experience as a workshop presenter or teacher preferred.
- Microsoft Office/Suite proficient (Excel, PowerPoint, Word) and experience utilizing project management software.
- Ability to work in an Apple environment and with video software preferred.

- Able to work independently with little supervision and multitask efficiently and effectively, completing work in a timely, accurate, and thorough manner.
- Great interpersonal skills, with solid decision-making and leadership capabilities, and the ability to work as a team.
- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal) with superiors, colleagues and individuals inside and outside the organization.
- Ability to communicate in multiple languages preferred, especially English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**Salary:** Commensurate with background and experience. Comprehensive benefit program (details will be furnished to finalist candidates).

**Application Deadline:** July 1, 2026

*(We reserve the right to shorten the deadline for applications if we have sufficient interest. Please apply early to ensure your background will be considered.)*

**For consideration, please email resume to:**

Brent Morton  
Senior Vice President of Recruiting  
Catholic Recruiter Associates  
[Brent@CatholicRecruiter.com](mailto:Brent@CatholicRecruiter.com)

**Note:** Only those selected for an interview with the search committee will be contacted.

This position serves a vital religious function that supports the mission and beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.

Search managed by:

CATHOLIC RECRUITER ASSOCIATES

EXECUTIVE SEARCH • MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

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